

June 26, 1952

Dear Pontecorvo:

I should be<sup>ve</sup> very glad to talk with Roper: I have followed the work you two have been doing with the greatest interest (but have some reservations as to whether any organism which displays recombination is still asexual.)

The lab. is likely to be a bit crowded, and I have other commitments for visitors and students next year. Until Roper's plans are a bit more definite, I won't be able to tell for sure whether he can be accommodated, but will be glad to discuss it with him at any time.

There is a point of technique in the *Aspergillus* work I don't quite understand. When conidia from balanced heterokaryons ~~xxx~~ treated with campher are plated on minimal, diploid prototrophs are selected. If one did this sort of experiment with *Neurospora*, all one could see would be the resynthesis of heterokaryons. How can this be avoided-- or is anastomosis much rarer in *Aspergillus* than in *Neurospora*?

If you get hold of the 1961 Cold Spring Harbor Symposium, very recently in print, you may be interested to see the account of pseudoallelism in *E. coli* K-12, for factors controlling lactase production. We did not go into it very deeply, but could find no biochemical distinction between the action of the pseudoalleles, although another quite closely linked factor ( $Lac_A$ ) was distinctive.

Sincerely,